

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143442
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. ;OLBROOKE
S/S - AWOTTO

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R 210041Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN INVESTIGATIONS

1. DURING JUNE 17 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SIK DISCUSSED THE INVESTIGATIONS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. KIM SAID THAT A QUESTIONNAIRE SENT OUT BY THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ASKED WHETHER THEY HAD RECEIVED ANY GIFTS FROM FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM TONG-CHO. KIM SAID THAT THIS WAS "GOING TOO FAR" AND DEMEANING TO THE STATUS OF KOREAN AMBASSADORS IN GENERAL. KIM ALSO COMPLAINED IN UNSPECIFIC TERMS ABOUT THE COMMITTEE'S SUBPOENA OF THE BANK RECORDS OF THE KOREAN UN MISSION AND UN AMBASSADOR MUN TOK-CHU.

2. TURNING TO THE FRASER COMMITTEE, KIM SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FORMER KCIA DIRECTOR KIM HYONG-UK, WHO WOULD APPEAR BEFORE IT ON JUNE 22, WAS
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BARRED BY KOREAN LAW FROM DIVULGING ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION HE HAD LEARNED WHILE AN OFFICIAL OF THE ROKG. HOLBROOKE REPLIED THAT KIM HYONG-UK WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF ANY RESTRICTIONS HE MIGHT CONSIDER TO BE UNDER AS A KOREAN CITIZEN AND PRESUMABLY WOULD SO INFORM THE COMMITTEE IF HE WISHED. WITH RESPECT TO THE INVESTIGATIONS IN

GENERAL, HOLBROOKE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE PROBLEMS THEY
WERE CAUSING THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD NEITHER
BE APPROPRIATE NOR HELPFUL, HOWEVER, FOR THE DEPARTMENT
TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS,
WHICH WERE BEING CARRIED OUT BY ANOTHER, INDEPENDENT,
BRANCH OF THE USG. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE143442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0930
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2081583
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN INVESTIGATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, KS, US, (KIM YONG-SIK)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24456479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009